

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 EUR-25 /119 W

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O 121650Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1481

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 832

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IS

SUBJ: FORMATION OF NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

1. EBAN TOLD ME TODAY THAT LABOR ALIGNMENT HAD TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO PROCEED FORTHWITH IN FORMING NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT BY END OF WEEK WITHOUT INCLUSION OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) AND WITH ONLY 61 SEATS IN KNESSET, IF NRP BY EXPIRATION OF LABOR'S FEB 13 DEADLINE HAD NOT ACCEPTED PROPOSAL OF LAST YESTERDAY FOR TWO-YEAR MORATORIUM ON ISSUE OF WHO-IS-A-JEW. COALITION OMITTING NRP WOULD BE COMPRISED OF ALIGNMENT (54, INCLUDING 3 ARAB SEATS), INDEPENDENT LIBERALS (4), AND CIVIL RIGHTS PARTY (3), ALIGNMENT HAD ATTAINED QUIET ASSURANCE OF AGUDAT RELIGIOUS BLOC (5) THAT LATTER WOULD VOTE WITH GOVERNMENT ON NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES AND TESTS OF CONFIDENCE. FURTHERMORE, COMMUNISTS WOULD VOTE AGAINST LIKUD ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT ISSUES.

2. EBAN SAID NRP CURRENTLY THOUGHT IT HAD ALIGNMENT OVER BARREL. FORMULATION OF NARROW COALITION DESCRIBED ABOVE SHOULD SET NRP STRAIGHT. IT WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE TO RULE WITH SUCH SMALL MAJORITY, BUT IT COULD BE DONE. NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAVE COUPLE OF APPROPRIATE MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS VACANT (PROBABLY CONFIDENTIAL

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THOSE NOW HELD BY NRP) AND DESIGNATED FOR FUTURE INCLUSION

OF NRP IN CABINET. EBAN BELIEVED THIS LURE WOULD BRING
NRP BACK INTO GOVERNMENT IN DUE COURSE, AFTER NRP SAW
ALIGNMENT COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT THEM.
KEATING

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